

こんにちは！ Konnichiwa! Hello!

Our half of the year for Japanese class in Kindergarten is passed already; I can't believe it! We have learned so much about the language and culture of Japan already. Thank you for your continued support of our Japanese program from home. Many of the students are so excited to tell me that they are "teaching" Japanese to you and singing their songs for their parents, grandparents, younger siblings and even the dog!

Currently we have begun to talk about Animal in our World and will touch on topics for the rest of the year such as "Animals in our Backyard", "The Ocean" and "Animals in the Wild". We will start to use words to describe animals, ourselves and our surroundings. We continue to read books in class together, from Japan and some of our favorites that have been translated into Japanese. We will even be writing a book of our own in class; in Japanese! Don't forget to ask your kids about it!

Check out our wikispace for Japanese at Clovis Grove!

Our Japanese classes have their own wikispace again this year where we can easily post websites, short videos and informational sheets about the items we are learning in class. Check it out at:

www.sesslerensei.wikispaces.com

Need to get ahold of me? Please feel free to contact me anytime at the following phone number or e-mail address:

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We have been practicing some new songs in Kindergarten Japanese. A few of our favorites are:

Gu, Choki, Pa de

(we make different animals and figures with these three hand positions)



gu



choki



pa

And

Migi Te/Hidari Te



(Right hand/Left hand; sung to the tune of "Hokey Pokey")

Ask your kids to sing them for you!!

In February/March....

Our next unit of study is "Animals All Around Us". We will continue to learn how to use colors and other words to describe items and talk ourselves and the animals we share our world with in Japanese. Not only will we read some books from Japan, but we will make our own class book and bring it home to share with our families. We will continue to discover some of the writing in Japanese; it is fascinating to see how those "pictures" come together to make words and phrases.



Reading the Classics....

Children around the world enjoy classic books, no matter what language they are written in. As we continue our study of Japanese in Kindergarten, as well as in 1st and 2nd grade, we read many of your child's favorite books such as "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you See?" (by Bill Martin, Jr., illustrated by Eric Carle) and "Swimmy" (by Leo Lionni), the story of a fish that taught his friends how to work together. The children listen so carefully to these books to listen for words that they know and can recognize; they are always very proud to point those out. Our goal is to have many of these books on our website for Japanese here at Clovis soon, so the children can listen and show you at home what they know!

Animals All Around UsDescription words

OOKII	(oh-key-ee)	big
CHISAI	(chee-sah-ee)	small
NAGAI	(nah-gah-ee)	long
MIIKAI	(me-gee-kah-ee)	short
TAKAI	(tah-kah-ee)	tall/high
HIKUI	(he-koo-ee)	low
HAYAI	(ha-yah-ee)	fast
OSOI	(oh-so-ee)	slow

Animals in the Ocean

(some samples of the words that we will use in class)

Sakana	(sah-kah-nah)	fish
Kujira	(koo-gee-rah)	whale
Tako	(tah-koh)	octopus
Neko	(neh-koh)	cat
Pengin	(pen-geen)	penguin
Panda	(pahn-dah)	panda

Something to Review:

When we describe things, we can also use color words. Here is our list of color words again, just for review:

Akai	(ah-ka-ee)	red
Aoi	(ah-oh-ee)	blue
Ki-iro	(key-ee-low)	yellow
Murasaki	(moo-lah-sah-key)	purple
Midori	(me-doh-lee)	green
Cha-iro	(chah-ee-row)	brown
Pinku	(peen-koo)	pink
Orenji	(oh-len-jee)	orange
Kuroi	(koo-row-ee)	black
Shiroi	(she-row-ee)	white

Classroom Commands

(again, here are a few that we use frequently in class)

Tatte	(tah-tay)	stand up
Suwatte	(sue-wah-tay)	sit down
Mitte	(me-tay)	look
Kite	(key-tay)	listen
Te o agette	(tay-oh-ah-geh-tay)	raise your hand
Mawatte	(mah-wah-tay)	turn around
Dance o shite	(dance-o-she-tay)	dance
Utatte	(oo-tah-tay)	sing
Tabete	(tah-beh-tay)	eat
Nonde	(nohn-day)	drink
Nete	(neh-tay)	sleep
Okite	(oh-key-tay)	wake up
Kazoete	(kah-zo-ee-tay)	count

Culturally Speaking.....

- Japanese children have developed their own sounds for how they feel that animals "talk" in Japanese. It is interesting to see how different languages and cultures interpret the sounds that animals make. Ask your kids to sing some songs for you that we will be learning about animals
- "Umi", meaning the ocean or sea, is very important to the Japanese people. It is a great source of food for the Japanese and the fishing industry remains one of the most important in Japan. We'll get a chance to try some of these "delicacies" (like seaweed) from the ocean this Spring during class.